

***AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111***  
***U. S. Application No. 09/986,197***

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application.

The specification is objected to due to the informalities noted on page 2 of the Office Action. The specification is amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome this objection.

Claims 3 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 3 and 12 are amended herein.

Regarding claim 3, the Examiner asserts that the last three lines are unclear. As amended, claim 3 recites that the stimulated emission incident face of the erecting unit optical system is positioned perpendicular to the direction at the predetermined angle to the direction of thickness of the stimuable phosphor sheet. This portion of the claim is described, for example, at page 33, line 3 - page 34, line 1, as shown in FIG. 13. Applicant submits that claim 3 is clearly defined, and is supported by this excerpt.

For claim 12, Applicant amends the claim to recite that the first and second optical elements of the plurality of sets of image-bearing light detecting means are alternately arranged in the main scanning direction. This amendment is supported by the specification at page 31, lines 7-21, for example. Applicant submits that the amendment removes any indefiniteness from the claim.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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